Dear Parents and Guardians,

I’d like to take a few minutes to update you on the progress made by Fox Chapel Area School District’s Return-to-School Coalition.

The coalition’s five workgroups, comprising various stakeholders in the district, are continuing to meet and follow a four-stage process: Identify the Knowns and Unknowns; Build Scenarios; Recognize Consistencies and Prioritize; and Communicate. Upon the completion of these meetings, district administrators will compile a report for the Fox Chapel Area School Board to review at its August 2020 meeting.

As I’m sure you know, much uncertainty remains. Please know that we are closely monitoring the most recent spike of COVID-19 cases in Allegheny County and any guidance and recommendations that come from the county’s health department, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

At this time, the Fox Chapel Area School District is planning to offer in-person instruction and a fully online option taught by Fox Chapel Area teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. We will continue to work on details for how our in-person instruction will take place, guided by feedback from our workgroup meetings. We will send a survey to parents and guardians within the next week to gather information to further inform our work.

It’s important for our parents to know that per the state Department of Health, effective immediately, all children and adults must wear masks when inside all Fox Chapel Area facilities. Students will be able to remove their masks when eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart; seated at desks or assigned work spaces at least 6 feet apart; or while engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart. Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings.

Please know that we continue to plan for adaptation and change, not perfection, because of the constantly changing situations surrounding the spread of COVID-19. We are taking every precaution we can to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our entire school community.

We will continue to keep you updated as our work continues throughout the summer.

Sincerely,

Mary Catherine Reljac, Ed.D.
Superintendent